

Love is Faith-filled

November 2018

Married love is also faithful and exclusive of all other, and this until death. This is how husband and wife understood it on the day on which, fully aware of what they were doing, they freely vowed themselves to one another in marriage. Though this fidelity of husband and wife sometimes presents difficulties, no one has the right to assert that it is impossible; it is, on the contrary, always honorable and meritorious. The example of countless married couples proves not only that fidelity is in accord with the nature of marriage, but also that it is the source of profound and enduring happiness.

(*Humanae vitae* no. 9)

Reflection

In the book of Tobit, Tobiah and Sarah pray together on their wedding night for mercy and protection. In closing, Tobiah prays, "Now, not with lust, but with fidelity I take this kinswoman as my wife. Send down your mercy on me and on her, and grant that we may grow old together. Bless us with children" (Tobit 8:7). These brief sentences illustrate how marital love is lived fully when lived faithfully according to the marriage vows and loving in all circumstances no matter what life may bring.

This passage from Tobit also highlights the importance of a marriage built on prayer and faith in God. It is through a relationship with God that couples can learn to look beyond their own convenience and desires to the good of the other person. Inviting God in, building a marriage on faith, helps couples live in fidelity to each other and their vows.

How can you pray for your spouse or the married couples in your life?

Intercessory Prayer to Paul VI

God our Father,
fill all married couples
with your love.

Give them the grace
to love one another every day,
to live out their promise to love
in all circumstances until parted by death.

Help them to imitate your
freely given, sacrificial love,
that they may choose each day
to give of themselves,
to uphold their marriage bond, and
to reflect your love for us
when you sent your Son to
die for our sins.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,

Saint Paul VI, pray for us!

Amen.

